



# COMMUNITY BRIEFING

## Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster CA 92683

<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/default.asp>

Andrew E. Hall, Chief of Police

[admin@ewpd.org](mailto:admin@ewpd.org)

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### Words from Chief Hall



The Westminster Police Department's Mission Statement was developed with the participation of residents and community stakeholders. That mission statement sets forth our commitment to the protection of life, property and the rights of all people. The statement further declares our desire to achieve this through *individual accountability, excellent teamwork and commitment to quality service*. You will see this commitment, desire and achievement reflected in the people and programs described in this newsletter.

We are pleased to share this information with you and encourage you to share it with others. Please let us know how we are doing by contacting us at any time.

### *"New" Look for WPD Police Cars*

Recently, you may have noticed that the police cars in our City look different than in the past. Well, you are right! After using the old decal for over 30 years, we have *updated* it to reflect a more modern look. All members of the WPD were invited to participate in the redesign and review process. This is one of our first efforts to prepare the department for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (to take place in 2007).

Below are close-up pictures of our police cars, clearly illustrating the contrast between the old and the new decals.

#### *"Old" Decals with the City Seal*



Side View of Police Car



Back View of Police Car

#### *"New" WPD Decals*



Side View of Police Car



Back View of Police Car

## Federal & State Funds

The WPD has recently accepted a Federal grant from the **U.S. Department of Justice** to upgrade our Forensic Services Unit (FSU).



Also, we were awarded a State grant from the **California Office of Traffic Safety** to focus on the apprehension of drunk drivers.

## Forensics Grant

During the year 2006, a total of \$76,134 will be dedicated to purchasing state-of-the-art evidence processing equipment, providing forensics-related training to all FSU staff, and paying for FSU staff overtime needed to eliminate backlogged cases.

## DUI Grant

Nicknamed **W.I.D.E.** (Westminster Impaired Driver Enforcement), this two-year grant program will focus on enforcing the DUI laws by arresting drunk drivers and educating the public on the dangers of driving under the influence. In addition, part of the \$275,177 grant award will be used to fund the "Every 15 Minutes" Program at our local high schools.

## Helping Hands WPOA sponsors police families in New Orleans

In early October, the Westminster Police Officer's Association (WPOA) made a \$2,500 donation to hurricane Katrina relief efforts.



On behalf of the WPOA, **WPD Chaplain Robert Benoun** sought out two New Orleans Police Officers who had been severely impacted by the hurricane. Each of-

ficer was given a check for \$1,250 to help cope with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.



*WPD Chaplain Robert Benoun (third from left) posed with New Orleans Police Officers.*

Officers **Dean Moore** (left in picture) and **Chad Taylor** (not pictured) lost their homes and all their belongings. As their families remain in shelters, these two Officers continue their commitment to public safety by returning to work. WPOA is honored to be able to help them in their time of needs.



## Welcome Back! Graduates of the WPD Citizen Academy

On November 16, 2005, **Chief Andy Hall** (left) and **Captain Ron Coopman** (right) welcomed 55 past Academy graduates to a "**Citizen Academy Reunion**" luncheon. They gave an update on current WPD happenings, and also talked about the value of community and the police working together as a team. Keynote speaker **Ed Arnold**, a long-time Orange County newscaster, reiterated that WPD is part of the community. As such, it is important for the public to take an active role and work collaboratively with the WPD.



Started in 1993, the WPD has held 20 sessions of the popular Citizen Academy. If you want to sign up for the next session, contact **Police Services Officer Ken Edwards** at 714-898-3315, ext. 590 or [KEdwards@ci.westminster.ca.us](mailto:KEdwards@ci.westminster.ca.us)

## WPD Community Involvement Beyond Policing

### "S.H.U.E. Project" Christmas Sponsor

Every year, many people from the police department sponsor children from the **S.H.U.E. Project** to ensure that they have a wonderful Christmas holiday.



Playing "Secret Santa," police employees use their own money to purchase gifts on these children's wish lists. Everything is done anonymously, so the children will know the gifts came straight from Santa Claus!



Standing for "**Safety, Health, Understanding and Education**," the S.H.U.E. Project reaches out to children in first and second grades who are "at risk" in our community due to the area they live in. The S.H.U.E. Project utilizes our Senior Center volunteers to assist in providing a structured after-school program to these children including tutoring, computer skills, health education and reading.



### "Shop with a Cop" Christmas Sponsor



The Westminster Police Officer's Association (WPOA) and the Fountain Valley Police Officer's Association (FVPOA) will be hosting the "**Shop with a Cop**" program in partnership with Wal-

Mart. From nominations submitted by local school teachers, the WPOA selects deserving children to go on a shopping trip at Wal-Mart. Police officers accompany and help each child to select gifts.

“Shop with a Cop” will take place on **Saturday, December 17, 2005, at 8:00am at Wal-Mart located at 13331 Beach Blvd.**



The WPOA, FVPOA, and Wal-Mart will be donating \$100 gift certificates for each child along with a \$100 grocery shopping certificate to their families.

## Holiday Safety

The holidays are upon us, and the WPD would like to remind you to keep safety in mind at all times. Here are a few tips to remember:

### If you are leaving town

- ✓ Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- ✓ Ask a neighbor to watch your home & park in the driveway from time to time.
- ✓ Stop your mail and newspaper delivery.



### When you leave your house

- ✓ Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone is home.
- ✓ Be sure you lock all your doors and windows when you leave, even if it is only for a few minutes.



### When you go shopping

- ✓ Lock your car and keep gifts & shopping bags out of sight.
- ✓ Don't carry large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card.
- ✓ Be aware of your purses and wallets.



## License Your Bicycle

Many children may find a new bicycle under the Christmas tree this year. It is important to get a bike license for it. Not only does a license send a warning to would-be thieves that the bike is registered with the police, it also increases the likelihood of your stolen bike being found and returned.



To make the process easy, the Westminster Police Explorers are available to license your bicycles at the Police Department (*Civic Center at 8200 Westminster Blvd.*) on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm.

## Are you a Pet Owner? Tips to Keep Pets Safe During the Holidays!

Pets depend on their owners to keep them safe from harm during the holidays. We would like to remind you of the following tips to ensure the safety of the pets in your family.

- Certain plants (such as Mistletoe berries & the leaves, stem and flowers of the Poinsettia) can be dangerous to pets. Keep these plants out of the animals' reach, or consider using artificial ones.
- Foods and drinks can be harmful to pets. These include alcoholic beverages, seeds and pits from many fruits, chocolate, macadamia nuts, walnuts, coffee, tea, salt, onions, and other foods. Check with your veterinarian!
- Do NOT feed your pets leftovers from the dinner table. Items such as chicken bones can easily shatter and choke cats and dogs.



- When cooking dinner for your guests, be sure to move pet birds away from the kitchen area. Fumes released from non-stick cookware and self-cleaning ovens can be deadly.
- Decorations such as tinsel and glass ornaments can easily attract pets but are dangerous choking hazards. Electric decorations such as strung lights can give your pets a shock should they chew on the wires. Keep decorations out of their reach.



- The unusual commotion of the holiday season can be stressful on animals as well as humans. Put your pets in a quiet room or quiet area of the house when guests are visiting.
- If you decide you want to give a pet, consider the timing of your gift. The holidays are busy and stressful, and owners may not be able to give a new pet all the attention it needs.
- When traveling with your pets, make sure they are properly secured and don't fly them in the cargo area on airplanes unless absolutely necessary.

For more information about home holiday hazards, visit the **Humane Society of the United States** Website at [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org).

## Missed our last issue?

You can now read and print past issues of the *Community Briefing* on our Website! Go to [www.westminster-ca.gov](http://www.westminster-ca.gov), click on "Police Department" for a link to the WPD homepage. You can find the newsletters under "Community Outreach."



## WPD Efforts to Fight Human Trafficking

Much of the recent efforts from the WPD's **Crimes against Public** unit has been focused on investigations of potential sex trafficking. Led by **Sergeant Tom Finley**, his unit has been working closely with other law enforcement and social services agencies to determine if sexual exploitation of immigrants is occurring in our City.



The unit has discovered several houses in the area that are being used as brothels, and has made several arrests based on this ongoing investigation. Whenever possible, victims of trafficking have been provided with appropriate social and legal services through the **Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force**. Sergeant Finley's unit continues its investigations, and is working to capture actual human smugglers and traffickers.

## New Partnership WPD & Interval House

Interval House, our local comprehensive domestic violence program, has partnered with the WPD to be our domestic violence response liaison. The goal of this partnership is to pair *intervention* with *education* when it comes to dealing with domestic violence (DV) and its victims.

For over 25 years, Interval House has provided award-winning life-saving services to victims of domestic violence and their children in Westminster and surrounding Orange County areas. Their program is unique for providing all services in 40 different languages. Since 1979, Interval House has evolved into a multi-service, award winning agency that has sheltered over 14,600 women, counseled over 629,000 victims on the 24-hour hot-line, and reached millions

more through nationally acclaimed outreach presentations, media, and prevention programs.

Interval House is committed to:

- Be on site at the WPD
- Follow up on every DV call that WPD has responded to
- Provide emotional support to DV victims and the police
- Offer comprehensive services (in 40 languages) to DV victims
- Explain and orient DV victims to the criminal justice system
- Be available 24 hours a day for emergency crisis calls

### Contact Information:

Headquarters: 562-594-9492  
24-hr Hotline: 714-891-8121  
Fax: 562-596-3370  
Email: [admin@intervalhouse.org](mailto:admin@intervalhouse.org)

## Senior Safety Advisory Committee



*First Advisory meeting: held at WPD*

The **Senior Safety Advisory Committee** fosters a partnership between the WPD and the public, which will ensure and promote the safety and well-being of seniors in our Community. In addition, committee meetings will serve as a forum to discuss various safety related issues.



*Chief Hall (left) listens to Investigator Terry Selinske at the meeting.*

There was an overwhelmingly positive response from the numerous senior living facilities in our City. During the first two monthly

meetings, over 600 relevant safety pamphlets were distributed to our senior citizens. Also, a special presentation on the topic of "Emergency Preparedness" was facilitated by Orange County Fire Authority Battalion Chief Ron Blaul.

If you reside in one of our senior-living facilities and believe that your facility may not be represented on the Advisory Committee, please contact



**Sergeant Bill Collins** at 714-898-3315, ext. 408 or [billc@ewpd.org](mailto:billc@ewpd.org)



*Lt. Jack Davidson*

### *Ask Your Questions*

[jackd@ewpd.org](mailto:jackd@ewpd.org)

(714) 898-3315  
Extension 723

**Question:** "What training is currently provided to police officers to prepare them for police pursuits?"

Police pursuits, especially those with helicopter coverage and aired on local television channels, are always of interest to the public.



Should a pursuit take place in our City, rest assured that our officers are well trained and prepared to deal with it.

Per guidelines set by the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.), our officers receive their initial driver training while attending the police academy. When new officers enter our structured in-house Field Training Program, they are trained on WPD departmental policies governing pursuit and emergency vehicle operations.



### **When do the police enter pursuits?**

Police officers may have to enter into a pursuit when an individual has intentionally refused to stop or may be wanted for a crime. The

decision to enter into a pursuit is based on a number of factors:

- Seriousness of the offense;
- Balance between the need to apprehend the suspect and the risk to the general public;
- Environmental and traffic conditions at the time;
- WPD Policy.

Once a pursuit has begun, officers would use emergency lights and sirens, as well as appropriate pursuit tactics. They stay in constant communication with supervisors, and if needed, will engage other police departments. The goal is to bring any and all pursuits to a successful and safe conclusion.



### Front Counter Hours

7:00am – 7:00pm, Every Day

### Phone Number

714-898-3315, extensions 371, 372, 373, 374, or 375

## Traffic Bureau

### Your Questions

**Q:** “What is the most expensive parking ticket?”

**A:** The most expensive parking ticket is for violation of the California Vehicle Code 22507.8(a): **parking in a handicapped stall with no placard visible.** The cost of this ticket is \$356.00!



Other handicap-related violations are:

- Parking in front of or upon a portion of a curb that has been constructed to provide wheelchair access to a sidewalk.
- Obstruct/block a handicap parking space and parking on the crosshatches (the blue criss-cross lines).

Parking on the crosshatches is a violation for *everyone*. Crosshatches are for those who need to load and unload their wheelchairs from their vehicles.



**No one's vehicle is permitted to park there**, even those with a valid handicap placard hanging on their rearview mirror!

### *So why is this taken so seriously?*

Imagine you are a disabled person who can't walk far and need a cane just to get out of your seat. The Americans with Disabilities Act made sure you had a specially marked blue stall close to the doctor's or any other place of business to help cope with your physical need. However, these spaces are not available because able-bodied people parked there for convenience, *not need*, just because it's closer to the ATM or to the entrance of the restaurant. Is that right? Is that fair?

*“I was in such a hurry and forgot to hang my placard up. Why did I get a ticket?”* Because you forgot to hang up your placard! If a valid



placard registered to you is not hanging at the time a citation was issued, a request for a review is required. With valid certification that you indeed have a placard, the fine for this violation can be reduced to \$20.00.

*“My mother/father/husband/sister/brother/cousin... etc... wanted me to get her/his medication and told me to use her/his placard.”* Sorry. If she/he is not in the car with you, then you are fraudulently using someone else's placard. This is a misdemeanor violation, requiring a mandatory court appearance and a court fine as much as \$3,000.00!

*“Oops. I hung up my expired placard. Here is my new one.”*

With valid certification along with the request for a review, the fee may be reduced to \$20.00.

Remember: If you are not permitted to park in a handicapped stall... **don't.** You are taking away a space designated for someone who has a physical need to park there. If you have a valid placard or a disabled license plate, please park there... That's what it's for!



898-3315, ext. 339.

If you have any questions about traffic or parking tickets, please contact: **Traffic Special Services Clerk Doreen van Lith** at 714-

## Wanted: Volunteers “Contractor Fraud” Prevention Program

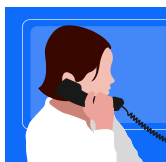
The WPD is seeking volunteers willing to be trained in the area of “Contractor Fraud” prevention.

Sadly, many seniors fall victim to fraud each year. Often, this is due to them being unfamiliar with the contractors and the process to select a reliable contractor. That is why the WPD is in the beginning phase to implement a **“Contractor Fraud” Prevention Program** to assist seniors when dealing with hiring contractors.



This unique program will provide the opportunity for seniors to contact WPD volunteers who are trained as fraud experts. If a senior is thinking about or in the process of utilizing a contractor for any type of work, he or she can just pick up the phone and call the

WPD "Contractor Fraud" Prevention Program volunteer to ask questions. In fact, the volunteer can even respond to the residence of the senior to be present when a bid for service is conducted by a contractor!



If you have any questions about the "Contractor Fraud" Prevention Program or would like to become a volunteer, please contact **Sergeant Bill Collins** at 714-898-3315, ext. 408 or [billc@ewpd.org](mailto:billc@ewpd.org)



## CSI Explorer Post

The new **Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) Explorer Post** was created by the WPD, Huntington Beach Police Department, and Fountain Valley Police Department. The goal of the CSI Post is to expose young adults to the CSI field while creating an emphasis on career development. This is done through hands-on training sessions and group activities such as Fingerprint Collection, Forensic Photography, Evidence Collection, Firearms, and Trace Evidence.



The first CSI Explorer Post meeting took place on August 25, 2005. Working side-by-side with CSI technicians and police officers, these Explorers got their hands dirty and learned all about black powder fingerprint processing.



If you know of any young adults (ages 14 to 21) that would be interested in the CSI Explorer Post, please contact either **Lieutenant Jack Davidson** at 714-898-3315, ext. 723 or [jackd@ewpd.org](mailto:jackd@ewpd.org).



**Officer Michael Nguyen** at 714-898-3315, ext. 867, or



**Forensic Technician Sara Nguyen** at 714-898-3315, ext. 361.

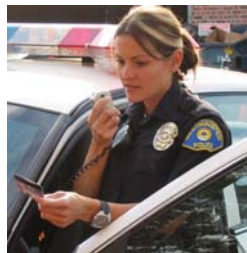


## Fact or Myth? Frequently Asked Questions

Let this column help separate facts and myths about police work! Submit your questions to [admin@ewpd.org](mailto:admin@ewpd.org).

**Myth.** *Police officers cannot "run" my license plate unless I have committed a crime or traffic violation. Otherwise, it's an abuse of power!*

**Fact.** The police can run a plate for any legitimate law enforcement reason. Officers run license plates for many reasons:



- To see if the car is currently registered
- To see if the car is stolen, if they think something is suspicious about the occupants and they want to see who is driving the car
- To see if the license plate matches the vehicle it is on

**Myth.** *I only need to have a license plate at the back of my car... it's just common practice!*



**Fact.** Not true! You need to have BOTH the front and rear license plates. The California Vehicle Code, Section 5200, states: "When two license plates are issued by the DMV for a vehicle, they shall be attached to the vehicle for which they were issued, one in the front and the other in the rear."

## Crime Prevention Tip from WPD

### HOW TO PREVENT THEFTS FROM INVITED WORKERS AND GUESTS

Recently, thefts have occurred at residences in which there had been invited guests or workers inside the house. Three particular cases come to mind:

1) A woman was at home recovering from surgery. Many people came in and out of her house, including visiting friends, relatives, and caregivers. Unfortunately, she left her wedding ring sitting on a dresser... someone took the ring!



2) A resident hired a carpet cleaner. Even though a family member stayed with the cleaner 80% of the time, the residents discovered that a box of jewelry was missing after the worker had finished cleaning and left.



3) A resident hired a company to install new flooring in the home. The resident left the subcontractors alone on two of the work days, and the workers secured the house with a key provided by the residents. Several days after the job was finished, the resident discovered that cash and jewelry were missing from their house.



Many of us have been in the similar situations, and fortunately, nothing has happened to us. Yet on these occasions, someone stole items of value from the residents.

**What you can do to avoid being a victim... Use common sense!**

- Lock up and/or hide your valuables when strangers enter or work at your house.
- If workers need access to one room, lock up your valuables securely in a different room.





- Allow workers to access certain areas of your residence and watch what they do & where they go.
- Check references on the people you hire! Make sure they are bonded/insured.

These crime prevention tips were brought to you by **Detective Jim Mraz**, who handles commercial and residential burglary cases.

## Police Officers Mentor Each Other

The WPD recently implemented the **Mentor Assisted Policing (MAP) Program**, which pairs patrol officers with experienced detectives. The goals of the program are to:



- Enhance the investigative skills of patrol officers
- Develop future detectives
- Leverage patrol and detective resources to expedite and improve case management

In line with our departments' values, the mentor program has the ultimate goal of improving individual accountability, fostering teamwork, and improving our commitment to quality customer service. For information about MAP, contact:

**Sergeant Mike Chapman** at 714-898-3315, ext. 546 or [michaelc@ewpd.org](mailto:michaelc@ewpd.org)



OR



**Detective Alan Iwashita** at 714-898-3315, ext. 306 or [alani@ci.westminster.ca.us](mailto:alani@ci.westminster.ca.us).

## Police Department News

### Officer of the Month July 2005

While on patrol, **Officer Bill Eifert** noticed that the car stopped nearby matched the description of a vehicle involved in a burglary a few days earlier. He immediately contacted the driver, who happened to be a parolee with a "no bail" warrant. The driver and his passenger were arrested after stolen property and narcotics paraphernalia were found in the car. Subsequent search warrants led to the recovery of more stolen property and two more arrests. Officer Eifert is commended for his attention to details and quick action!



### Officer of the Month August 2005

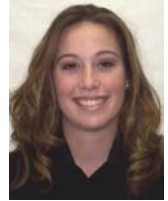
**Officers Adriana Naranjo and Phuong Pham** responded to a



burglary alarm at a local retail store. Officer Pham went to the business and confirmed the burglary. Meanwhile, Officer Naranjo surveyed the surrounding area and spotted a suspicious male walking away. Trusting her instinct and training, she detained the man for questioning. Working together, both officers were able to match evidence from the crime to evidence in the suspect's possession. Additional incriminating evidence was found in the suspect's car. Their teamwork and timely, coordinated efforts resulted in a swift resolution to a slam dunk case. Good work!

## Quality Customer Service Award

**Police Officer  
Cindy Sweasy**



**Officer Cindy Sweasy** went out of her way to ensure three citizens were recognized for putting their own lives at risk to save an incapacitated driver's life. She felt it was important to share their story with the community and acknowledge these individuals' bravery and heroism. Officer Sweasy's efforts remind us that it is important to recognize those who work together with the police for a safe and peaceful community. Thank you, Cindy.

**Police Officer Tommy Chow & Police Services Officer Steve Eifert**



While our Animal Control Unit was closed for the day, we received a call from an upset woman who found "a large snake" on the loose in her garage. **Officer Tommy Chow and Police Services Officer Steve Eifert** volunteered to respond to the call, even though they had no training on how to handle snakes. Fortunately, they were able to safely snare the 4-foot snake with a catch pole and guide it into a pillow case. The snake was eventually returned to its grateful owner unharmed. These two "snake-hunters" demonstrated bravery, resourcefulness, and persistence above and beyond their normal duties. Great job guys!

**Police Officer  
Dan McCarthy**



**Officer Dan McCarthy** played an integral part in reuniting a disabled missing adult

with his family from Eugene, Oregon. After the first contact, Officer McCarthy let the man go after he promised to contact his family. Unfortunately, Officer McCarthy heard later from the man's mother that her son never called. Luckily, Officer McCarthy found the man again. Not only did he make sure a call was made to the mother, Officer McCarthy then personally escorted the man to the bus terminal and made arrangements for his trip to Oregon. Officer McCarthy took the extra step to ensure the safe return of a loved one to his family. Great follow through, Dan!

### OFFICER TRAINING: County Law Enforcement/ Mental Health Training

On October 19, 2005, the WPD co-hosted a joint law enforcement/mental health training, entitled: *Community First: Public Safety & Mental Health Collaboration*. At this forum, law enforcement officers from across Orange County were provided information to improve both officer and community safety during encounters with the mentally ill. The training was also sponsored by College Hospital, Pacific Clinics, Orange County Health Care Agency, Orange County Sheriff's Department, Garden Grove and Santa Ana Police Departments.

### OFFICER TRAINING: West County SWAT Team



The West County SWAT Team conducted an extensive training exercise at the Westminster Mall after it closed on October 23, 2005. Police Officers from Westminster, Fountain Valley, Cypress and Los Alamitos trained for proper and safe response when dealing with "active shooter" and hostage situations.



So far, the West County SWAT team has proven to be a very successful program that is beneficial to all four police agencies.

### SUPERVISOR TRAINING: Team Building



Sponsored by the P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and Training), police supervisors and police managers attended a team building training from October 25-27, 2005.



This year, the primary focus was on leadership development. Several small group discussions took place over the three-day training, allowing for in-depth conversations about department priorities and supervisory responsibilities.

### OFFICER TRAINING: DUI Training

A department-wide training for all police officers took place in October and November 2005. It covered the review of policies and



procedures for DUI enforcement, how to properly operate the Alco-Sensor IV breath machine (to test for blood-alcohol level), and how to use the new traffic collision report writing system.

### New Faces at WPD

On September 12, 2005, **Officers Scott Gump** and **Scott Mena**, along with **Dispatchers Kristyn LeFebvre** and **Kristen Steifel** became new additions to the WPD. They were later joined by **Officers Linda Garcia, Lauren Vazquez**, and **Robert Baldrige** on November 21, 2005.



Chief Hall sworn-in (from left to right) Officers Scott Gump and Scott Mena; Dispatchers Kristyn Lefebvre and Kristen Stiefel on September 12, 2005.

### Officers-in-Training

**Officer Scott Gump** grew up in Westminster. He worked part-time for the WPD before attending the Goldenwest Police Academy. Scott (a previous Westminster Explorer Captain) graduated second overall from the Academy. **Officer Scott Mena** follows his father's footsteps for a career in law enforcement. Before attending the Rio Hondo Police Academy, Scott worked as a WPD parking control officer for a year.



Officers Lauren Vazquez, Robert Baldrige, and Linda Garcia (from left to right) were sworn-in by Chief Hall (not pictured) on November 21, 2005.

Both bilingual speakers, **Officers Linda Garcia and Lauren Vazquez** graduated from the Rio Hondo Police Academy. Linda



grew up in LA and was in a managerial position in retail before following her brother for a career in law enforcement. Lauren was an Explorer, a cadet, and a Customer Service Officer (CSO) for the Monterey Park Police Department before entering the academy. New **Reserve Police Officer Robert Baldridge** brings with him 14 years of experience as a Firefighter for the Orange County Fire Authority. He works with the WPD as a paramedic for the West County SWAT Team.

### ***Dispatchers-in-Training***

**Dispatcher Kristyn Lefebvre** lives in Westminster with her teenage son and mother. **Dispatcher Kristen Stiefel** lives in Fullerton with her fiancée and sister. She started out at the Anaheim Police Department as a traffic control assistant. Both ladies are attending school while being in our dispatcher training program.

## **Retirement**

**Officer Sam Miller** retired from police work on August 17, 2005, ending a 19-year career with the WPD. Sam was hired out of the Rio Hondo Police Academy in 1986. He was assigned to Patrol upon graduation, where he proudly served until promoting to Detectives in 1991. While assigned to Detectives, Sam worked many different assignments, including Burglary and Robbery/Homicide. Sam's focus, perseverance and tenacity earned him a reputation throughout the county as a "bulldog" investigator.

Sam was the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, including several *Officer of the Month* awards as well as the Westminster Police Department's *Medal of Merit*, earned for bravery while arresting bank robbery suspects. Sam's presence is sorely missed by his friends at the WPD.



**Lieutenant Phil Marshall** retired from the WPD on October 28, 2005.



Phil began his 31-year career with the WPD in 1973 as a Reserve Police Officer. A year later, he became a full time Patrol Officer. Phil was promoted in 1981 and spent the next 5 years riding a police motorcycle. He was then promoted to police sergeant and five years later, in 1991, Phil was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Throughout his career, we have relied on Phil to *bring innovative ideas to life* (i.e., pioneering the DUI Enforcement Team and introducing handheld automated parking citation writers), to *shoulder the responsibility of daunting tasks* (i.e., planning and organizing the funeral services for our first police officer killed while on duty), and to *mentor and train new police officers and supervisors*.



*Phil was presented with a Resolution from the City by Mayor Margie Rice (left) and a plaque by WPOA President Sergeant Brian Carpenter (right).*

During his tenure, Phil has witnessed the growth of the City and adapted to the needs of our diversified population. His knowledge and skills will be sorely missed by the WPD and City. Phil will be retiring to spend more time with his bride and two young children.

**Parking Control Supervisor John Lupe**

will be retiring in December 2005. John will be riding off (on his motorcycle) into the sunset after spending more than 30 years serving the citizens of this city.



When John began his career with the City in 1973 as a heavy equipment operator, Westminster Mall used to be Gold Fish Farms, Little Saigon was mostly strawberry fields (with a few strip centers), and Wal-Mart was the Highway 39 Drive-In movie with two screens.

John became a civilian police employee in 1989 as the parking control supervisor, after working for the street sweeping parking citation program. One of John's duties as parking control supervisor was to review contested citations. John says that he has heard some very funny reasons why people believe that they should be forgiven for illegal parking, but the best one is from a person who believed that parking illegally was a part of free speech. This person was found guilty and paid the fine, but he did get to be heard.

John is looking forward to retirement, but says that he will miss the many friends that he has made among both fellow employees and citizens. He plans to travel and take life easy. We wish John well, and we hope that he comes back often to visit.



## ***Behind the Scenes: Meet the Employees Who Work Inside the WPD***



In this issue, we will meet some of the civilian staff members who have important jobs inside the police building. Unlike last edition's staff from *Administration*, the individuals featured here have daily interactions with the public (via the business phone lines and the Front Counter).

## Records Bureau & Desk Officer

Records Bureau consists of one supervisor, five full-time specialists, one part-time specialist, and one part-time intern. There are also two full-time Police Services Officers (PSO) assigned to the front counter as the Desk Officer.

The Records Bureau is an integral part of the WPD. The specialists are responsible for gathering all pertinent information in order to prepare court packages, disseminate information to other police agencies, data entry, and scan documents into an imaging system for easy retrieval. They are also responsible for releasing reports to victims, insurance agencies, attorneys, and other involved parties.



Let's meet the staff, from left to right: **Specialist Kellee Wells**, **Supervisor Danielle Martell**, **Specialist Cindy Reissig**, **Specialist Bella Hlavnicka**, **Specialist Thuy Duong**, **PSO Judy Mangiameli**, and **PSO Sue Reeds**. *Missing are Specialist Luanna Iwashita, Specialist Julie Sprague, and Intern Lindsey Cleland.*

These dedicated employees handle all inquiries that come their way either by person or by phone. They will help with report releases, impounded vehicles, general questions about parking, animal traps, etc. The Desk Officer also helps citizens at the front counter and takes police reports.

## WANTED Police Explorers

Are you interested in learning about law enforcement as a potential career, and ready to volunteer your time for community service?

If so, consider joining the Westminster Police Explorers!

Explorers are trained in a variety of law enforcement tasks and have the opportunity to work along side police officers.

### Minimum Requirements

- Between the ages of 14 and 20
- Attending a high school or college
- Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 while in high school

### How to Become an Explorer

- Attend an explorer meeting and obtain an application
- Return the completed application at the following meeting
- Successfully pass a background investigation
- Successfully pass an oral interview

For more information about the Explorer Program, or to find out the next meeting date, please contact **Officer Al Brackett** at 714-898-3315, ext. 860



or  
**Sergeant Tom Broderson** at 714-898-3315, ext. 311,  
[thomasb@ewpd.org](mailto:thomasb@ewpd.org)



## Goodbye & Good Luck

In the Year of 2005, the following employees left the WPD to pursue other opportunities. We want to acknowledge their many years of service to the Department and City, and wish them all good luck!

**Police Officer R.J. Garwood**  
(9 years of service)

**Forensic Technician Ken Jones**  
(15 years of service)

**Forensic Technician Jeff Lewis**  
(8 ½ years of service)

**Police Dispatcher Patricia Quast**  
(4 years of service)

**Crime Analyst Julie Romano**  
(5 years of service)

## Police Department Phone Numbers

**If you have an emergency,  
call 9-1-1!**



**For non-emergency  
or other business,  
call (714) 898-3315**

General Information	ext. 425
Dispatch	ext. 326
Records Bureau	ext. 371
Traffic Division	ext. 339
Administration	ext. 301

### E-mail List

If you would like to be on our newsletter e-mail list, please let us know by sending your name and e-mail address to [admin@ewpd.org](mailto:admin@ewpd.org).



**THANK  
YOU!**

**Mayor Margie L. Rice**  
**Mayor Pro-Tem Frank Fry**  
**Councilman Kermit Marsh**  
**Councilman Russell Paris**  
**Councilman Andy Quach**

We want to express our sincere appreciation to the Westminster City Council for their support and commitment to public safety!

**Community Briefing** is a newsletter produced quarterly by the Westminster Police Department. Its main purpose is to share information about the Department with the community we serve.

Further questions or comments regarding the contents of this newsletter should be forwarded to the Research & Planning Unit at (714) 898-3315 ext. 460 or [admin@ewpd.org](mailto:admin@ewpd.org).